

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are in the case. A Notice of Allowance was mailed to Applicants on April 20, 2004.

Prior to the payment of the issue fee, it came to the attention of Applicant's undersigned representative that the Filing Receipt mailed February 9, 2004, did not accurately reflect the true priority claims of the Application. An investigation of the file wrapper revealed that, although a priority claim was made in the first paragraph of the specification and in the Declaration of the Inventor, and the relationship between the present application and the earliest priority document was contained in the specification as filed, through incorporation by reference from the parent document (U.S. Application Serial No. 10/454,545), nevertheless the filing receipt from the United States Patent Office only reflected the relationship set forth on Applicant's Utility Application Transmittal.

37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(iii) states that the reference to the priority document must be contained in the application data sheet or the specification must contain or be amended to contain such a reference in the first sentence following the title. 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) states that the reference to the priority document must be submitted during the pendency of the later filed application. Applicant's earnestly believe that the reference to the relationship between the present application and the earliest priority document was originally submitted to the United States Patent Office on the filing of the present application, that is, November 12, 2003, as explained in the paragraph above.

Applicant's undersigned representative respectfully requests the Examiner's assistance in correcting the records of the United States Patent Office to reflect the correct status of the application, as set forth in the first paragraph, paragraph [0001], as amended. In particular it is respectfully requested that the Examiner insure that any patent issuing from the present application reflect on its face the correct priority and the correct term of the patent.


If the Examiner believes that a petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is required, or if the Examiner believes some other action is necessary by the Applicant, he is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss this matter.

Accordingly, the present Application is believed to be in condition for allowance, with the proper priority document relationships correctly identified. Early indication of the same is earnestly solicited.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 05-1712 maintained by Assignee.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 20 July 2004



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